

## Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 301345 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 929

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L IZMIR 100

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJECT: MARTIAL LAW LIFTED IN IZMIR

REF: IZMIR 27 AND 29

SUMMARY: MARTIAL LAW IN IZMIR PASSED INTO HISTORY

MAR 2. AUTHORITIES REGARD PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION

TO BE WELL UNDER CONTROL AT PRESENT. TRADITIONALLY

ACTIVIST INSTITUTIONS WHICH WERE OBJECT OF MARTIAL

LAW REPRESSION, I. E., PRESS, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL

PARTIES AND UNIVERSITY CAN BE EXPECTED TO EMERGE

GRADUALLY FROM DORMANCY WITH ATTENDANT IMPLICATIONS

FOR AMERICAN PRESENCE. END SUMMARY

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1. EXACTLY TWENTY- THREE MONTHS AFTER ITS IMPOSITION, MARTIAL LAW ENDED IN IZMIR MAR 26. IN COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING RECISSION OF MARTIAL LAW, ADM. SONMEZ, MARTIAL LAW COMMANDER, INDICATED THAT QTE POSTIVE ATMOSPHERE REACHED WHEREIN POLICE FORCES COULD NOW CONTROL DESTRUCTIVE AND HARMFUL ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE CAUSE OF MARTIAL LAW DECLARATION UNQTE.

2. ADM. SONMEZ ALSO HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAR 26 IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MARTIAL LAW COULD  
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SOON BE ABOLISHED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AND THAT TURKEY COULD QTE RETURN TO NORMAL DEMOCRATIC ORDER UNQTE HE SAID THAT TURKEY WAS CONFRONTED WITH THREAT AND THERE WERE NUMBER OF APPROACHES WHICH MUST BE FOLLOWED IN COMBATING THIS THREAT INCLUDING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE. HE MADE SPECIAL POINT OF REMINDING PRESS THAT IT ALSO HAD IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT IT QTE SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES AND SHOULD NOT BECOME TOOL OF EXTREMISM UNQTE. ADM. SONMEZ, WHEN QUERIED, SAID THAT THIRTY- TWO

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SUSPECTS REMAIN IN CUSTODY OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES PENDING CONCLUSION OF TRIALS WHICH WOULD BE QTE TRANSFERRED UNQTE NOW TO LOCAL MILITARY COURTS. 3. BECAUSE MARTIAL LAW MAINTAINED LOW PROFILE IN IZMIR, PUBLIC APPROBATION OF IT WIDESPREAD. MARTIAL LAW WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER AND STABILITY. MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION IN IZMIR EXERCISED ITS INFLUENCE AS MUCH THROUGH ITS PRESENCE AS BY ANY SPECIFIC ACTIONS THAT IT TOOK. 4. IN SPITE OF OSTENSIBLY BENIGN CHARACTER OF MARTIAL LAW IN IZMIR, IT WOULD BE ERRONEOUS, HOWEVER, TO ASSUME THAT MARTIAL LAW EXERCISED ONLY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OR THAT IT FAILED TO CONSTITUTE SIGNIFICANT REPRESSIVE FACTOR IN NUMBER OF KEY AREAS. CENSORSHIP OF PRESS BECAME PRONOUNCED IN RECENT MONTHS( SEE IZMIR 66). ALTHOUGH FORMAL BAN ON STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS LIFTED SEVEN MONTHS AGO AND THERE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TWO MAJOR STRIKES AND SEVERAL MINOR ONES, UNION LEADERS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WERE WARY ABOUT

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PUSHING TRADITIONAL LABOR ACTIVITIES SO LONG AS MARTIAL LAW REMAINED IN EFFECT. MARTIAL LAW BAN ON PUBLIC MEETING ALSO SERVED TO RESTRAIN ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES AS WELL AS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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LATTER WAS PROBABLY MAJOR OBJECT OF MARTIAL LAW

CONCERN LOCALLY AND STUDENTS, FULLY REALIZING THIS, REMAINED QUIESCENT. FUNCTIONING OF MARTIAL LAW COURTS AND THEIR PROCLIVITY FOR HOLDING LEFTIST SUSPECTS FOR MONTHS AT TIME EFFECTIVELY REMOVED NUMBER OF TROUBLEMAKERS FROM SCENE.

5. IZMIR SO ACCLIMATED TO MARTIAL LAW THAT FULL IMPLICATION OF ITS PASSING HAS NOT YET STRUCK HOME. WHEN IT DOES, IT BOUND TO HAVE SIGNIFICENT UNSETTLING EFFECT ON PUBLIC. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS WILL NOT OCCUR, HOWEVER, AS LONG AS MARTIAL LAW REMAINS IN EFFECT IN OTHER AREAS AND WHILE MILITARY SO PROMINENT ON NATIONAL SCENE. NEVERTHELESS, LOCAL CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPERS WHICH IN RECENT DAYS HAVE BEEN OVERLY GENEROUS IN PRAISING PERFORMANCE ON MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION IN IZMIR HAVE ALSO RAISED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

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EDITORIALLY ABOUT WHAT FUTURE WITHOUT MARTIAL LAW MAY HOLD. MOST COMPETENT OBSERVERS, INCLUDING BOTH LOCAL MARTIAL LAW COMMANDERS, BELIEVE THAT WHILE PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION NOW UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL, MARTIAL LAW TREATED ONLY SYMPTOMS OF TERRORISM AND ANARCHY WHICH AFFLICTED TURKEY SOME TWO YEARS AGO. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS MAR 27, IZMIR PROVINCIAL POLICE CHIEF ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE CITIZENS THAT LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW WOULD NOT RPT NOT MEAN COLLAPSE OF LAW AND ORDER.

6. WHILE THERE NO RPT NO DISCERNIBLE CLOUDS ON HORIZON AT MOMENT, IT MUST BE EXPECTED THAT INHIBITING EFFECT OF MARTIAL LAW AND ATMOSPHERE OF RESTRAINT WHICH BOUND TO HAVE CARRY OVER EFFECT FOR PERIOD OF TIME WILL EVENTUALLY WEAR OFF. WITH RETURN TO NORMALCY, WE EXPECT THAT LABOR UNIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BECOME CONSIDERABLY MORE ACTIVE LOCALLY, PARTICULARLY AS WE APPROACH GENERAL ELECTIONS. IN FIRST TWO DAYS AFTER MARTIAL LAW LIFTED, CEMENT AND METAL WORKERS ANNOUNCED STRIKES

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